

United States Senate

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Schumer Study: Required Texts For Freshman Course Load Cost New York Students \$1053 a Year; Prices Up 14% In Two Years.

College textbook costs continue to skyrocket across New York State and the country. According to the Government Accountability Office, (GAO) textbook prices rose at twice the rate of inflation, 6% a year, since 1987. New York Students are feeling the pinch. Schumer's survey of colleges and universities across upstate New York shows that the required texts for nine introductory level courses cost \$1053. Schumer's survey also shows that New York State textbooks cost 14% more than they did in 2003, when a Schumer Study found that the average costs for nine introductory courses was \$922. Earlier averages at individual schools were included when possible.

According to a study by the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) found that students currently spent \$800 to \$900 to purchase books currently. Textbook rental services offer a much lower cost alternative to purchasing new textbooks. According to study by CAL PIRG, textbook rental services can cost students between \$130 and \$240 per year. The Schumer Study assumes universal rental services could save New York college students \$600 a year, or over \$266 million per year cumulatively.

In the **Capitol Region 53,562** students could save **\$32.1 million** a year in annual textbook costs if textbook rental programs were universal. The Schumer Study found that the average cost for required texts of an average freshman course load of nine courses was **\$1073**.

County	College and Undergraduate Students	Savings Per County If Textbook Rental Programs Were Universal (\$600/student)	Survey of Textbook Prices At Regional Colleges and Universities
Albany	22,244	\$13.3 million	SUNY Albany \$1289.10 (2005) vs \$1107 (2003) Siena College: 995.19 (2005) vs. \$1013.22 (2003) Skidmore \$937.5
Fulton	1,541	\$920,000	
Montgomery	1,256	\$750,000	
Rensselaer	9,750	\$5.9 million	
Saratoga	8,269	\$5 million	
Schenectady	6,816	\$4.1 million	
Schoharie	2,218	\$1.3 million	
Washington	1,468	\$900,000	
Capital Region Total	53,562	\$32.1 million	

In **Central New York 57,074** students could save **\$34.2 million** a year in annual textbook costs if textbook rental programs were universal. The Schumer Study found that the average cost in Central New York for required texts of an average freshman course load of nine courses was **\$1034**.

County	College and Undergraduate Students	Savings Per County If Textbook Rental Programs Were Universal (\$600/student)	Survey of Textbook Prices At Regional Colleges and Universities
Cortland	5,467	\$3.3 million	Syracuse University: \$1291 (2005) vs. \$865.75 (2003) SUNY Cortland: \$1022 (2005) vs. 957.45 (2003) SUNY Oswego: \$790.25
Madison	5,665	\$3.4 million	
Oneida	11,232	\$6.7 million	
Onondaga	26,558	\$15.9 million	
Oswego	8,152	\$4.9 million	
Central New York	57,074	\$34.2 million	

In the **Rochester/Finger Lakes** area **85,496** students could save **\$51.3 million** a year in annual textbook costs if textbook rental programs were universal. The Schumer Study found that the average cost in Central New York for required texts of an average freshman course load of nine courses was **\$963**.

County	College and Undergraduate Students	Estimated Student Savings Per County If Textbook Rental Programs Were Universal (\$600/student)	Survey of Textbook Prices At Regional Colleges and Universities
Cayuga	2,732	\$1.6 million	Cornell: \$1286 (2005) vs. \$1049 (2003) SUNY Brockport: \$853 (2005) vs. \$961 (2003) University of Rochester: \$913 Roberts Wesleyan: \$875 Nazareth College: \$888
Livingston	6,489	\$3.9 million	
Monroe	44,950	\$27 million	
Ontario	5,132	\$3.1 million	
Schuyler	565	\$340,000	
Seneca	947	\$570,000	
Tompkins	20,762	\$12.5 million	
Wayne	2,750	\$1.7 million	
Yates	1,169	\$700,000	
Rochester/Finger Lakes Total	85,496	\$51.3 million	

In the **Hudson Valley 103,299** students could save **\$62 million** a year in annual textbook costs if textbook rental programs were universal. The Schumer Study found that the average cost for required texts of an average freshman course load of nine courses was **\$1112**.

County	College and Undergraduate Students According To The Census	Estimated Student Savings Per County If Textbook Rental Programs Were Universal (\$600/student)	Survey of Textbook Prices At Regional Colleges and Universities
Columbia	1,624	\$970,000	SUNY New Paltz \$942.50 (2005) vs. \$583 (2003) Bard College \$1164 (2005) vs. \$888 (2003) Vassar College: \$1305 (2005) vs. \$913 (2003) SUNY Purchase \$1037
Dutchess	17,174	\$10.3 million	
Greene	1,307	\$780,000	
Orange	15,747	\$9.5 million	
Putnam	3,377	\$2 million	
Rockland	13,388	\$8 million	
Sullivan	2,283	\$1.4 million	
Ulster	9,761	\$5.9 million	
Westchester	38,638	\$23.2 million	
Hudson Valley Total	103,299	\$62 million	

In the **North Country 29,488** students could save **\$17.7 million** a year in annual textbook costs if textbook rental programs were universal. The Schumer Study found that the average cost for required texts of an average freshman course load nine courses was **\$1038**.

County	College and Undergraduate Students	Estimated Student Savings Per County If Textbook Rental Programs Were Universal (\$600/student)	Survey of Textbook Prices At Regional Colleges and Universities
Clinton	6,057	\$3.6 million	SUNY Plattsburgh \$956.35 (2005) vs. \$806.40 (2003) St. Lawrence University: \$1120
Essex	988	\$600,000	
Franklin	2,009	\$1.2 million	
Hamilton	101	\$61,000	
Herkimer	2,746	\$1.65 million	
Jefferson	4,385	\$2.6 million	
Lewis	541	\$320,000	
St. Lawrence	10,175	\$6.1 million	
Warren	2,486	\$1.5 million	
North Country Total	29,488	\$17.7 million	

In the **Southern Tier 103,299** students could save **\$22.9 million** a year in annual textbook costs if textbook rental programs were universal. The Schumer Study found that the average cost for required texts of an average freshman course load of nine courses was **\$1193**.

County	College and Undergraduate Students	Estimated Student Savings Per County If Textbook Rental Programs Were Universal (\$600/student)	Survey of Textbook Prices At Regional Colleges and Universities
Broome	14,554	\$8.7 million	SUNY Binghamton: \$1574.52 SUNY Oneonta \$812.5
Allegany	5,591	\$3.4 million	
Chemung	3,699	\$2.2 million	
Chenango	1,328	\$800,000	
Delaware	2,156	\$1.3 million	
Otsego	6,727	\$4 million	
Steuben	2,818	\$1.7 million	
Tioga	1,231	\$740,000	
Southern Tier	38,104	\$22.9 million	

In the **Western New York, 76,358** students could save **\$45.8 million** a year in annual textbook costs if textbook rental programs were universal. The Schumer Study found that the average cost for required texts of an average freshman course load of nine courses was **\$1031**.

County	College and Undergraduate Students	Estimated Student Savings Per County If Textbook Rental Programs Were Universal	Survey of Textbook Prices At Regional Colleges and Universities Compared with 2003
Cattaraugus	3,838	\$2.3 million	SUNY Buffalo: \$1,049.14(2005) vs. \$939 in (2003) Canisius: \$1,097 (2005) vs. 970.13 (2003) Genesee Community College \$948.89
Chautauqua	7,942	\$4.8 million	
Erie	49,716	\$29.8 million	
Genesee	2,459	\$1.5 million	
Niagara	10,129	\$6.1 million	
Orleans	1,022	\$610,000	
Wyoming	1,252	\$750,000	
Western New York	76,358	\$45.8 million	

*This study took the number of college and undergraduate students from the Census.

** For actual prices at local colleges and universities, Schumer surveyed nine entry level courses in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, English, Economics, History, Math, Psychology, and Spanish. This assumes students take five courses one semester and four in another.